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**The Iowa Blind History Archive  
History of Blindness in Iowa - Oral History Project  
Interview with [Name]  
Conducted by [Name]  
[Date]  
Transcribed by [Name]**

**NOTE: Any text included in brackets [ ] is information that was added by the narrator after reviewing the original transcript. Therefore, this information is not included in the audio version of the interview.**

**Steve Hunt, 34  
Mary Clarke  
Iowa Department for the Blind  
October 2, 2010, 2:30 PM  
First Interview**

**Mary Clarke: My name is Mary Clarke and I am interviewing Steve Hunt. The date is October 2, 2010. The approximate time is 2:30. We are recording at the Iowa Department for**

**the Blind. Steve, I'm going to read this agreement with you. It goes like this, "All stories submitted to this project will become a part of the History of Blindness Collection. Your story...owned by the Iowa Department for the Blind. By submitting your story you are acknowledging that your story is a gift which transfers to the Iowa Department for the Blind. All legal title and all literary property rights are granted...you will be granting to the Iowa Department for the Blind unrestricted license to use your recording and all the information which it contains in any manner the Department of the Blind may wish to use it, as long as the Iowa Department for the Blind wishes to use it." Do you agree to submit your information to the Department?**

**Steve Hunt: Yes, I agree.**

**Clarke: Okay. Sorry that was kind of rough reading there. Okay.**

**Hunt: It's your first time.**

**Clarke: I know and I'm nervous. (Laughter) Okay. Do you have an idea of what story you want to share Steve?**

**Hunt: Well, perhaps I should start off by telling a little bit about myself.**

**Clarke: All right.**

**Hunt: My name is Steve Hunt. I was born in 1977 with albinism, which is a rare lack of pigmentation that affects not only plant but also animal. I have seen a few...I'd say**

**squirrel or alligator or maybe even a prairie dog that, as well as human beings, that have been subject to the albinism. So, they have very light coloring with their skin. Very light coloring is only a small part of it. There is, also, light hair coloring and pink irises. When I was born I don't think my parents first realized that I was albino, and I have never talked to them about this.**

**5:00**

**Hunt: I was born blonde haired, and as I have looked back at that I can see how that could be expected because on my father's side of the family there were a number of us cousins, or my grandparent's grandchildren, who were born "toe-headed;" having very light blond hair, for those of you who have never heard of the term. In fact, I was born sick with another medical condition which is a whole other story. I would prefer to stick to the albinism.**

**As 1977 progressed, my parents realized that I was having trouble seeing and they proceeded to get me to an eye doctor who prescribed a set of eyeglasses for me to wear before the close of November of that year. My eye doctor put the glasses on me. My parents took me home and worked with me for about 45 minutes. And, I would say that, that is when something must have clicked and I must have realized that the glasses were going to work because I kept them on, since I didn't know what they were as an added safety measure. The doctor bent the bows around my ear so that I couldn't take them off. Well, anyone who's had a baby knows that babies will grab at anything. So, it was something that had to be thrown in. I think that is basically**

**how the first year of my life turned out, excluding the details of my birthday.**

**Clarke: As you've got into the school setting can you share a little bit about those experiences?**

**Hunt: I think I can. The first school I tried to attend was referred to as "Kiddie College," which my own mother told me about when I was a teenager. I vaguely remember being in this school which was in Lenox, Iowa. They really didn't know what they could do for me though that...it was okay though. It was the first school that I had ever been to. So, I went to a place that I have always...it was first told to me as Franklin School. That's what I've called it ever since. It was located in Creston and I think they were able to help me out with my disability. I'm not sure I can go into a whole great detail about that because that was more than 25 years ago, so it's been a long time. But, from there I did not continue in the Creston Elementary School District because my parents had both lost their jobs and they both found work in Ringgold County. So, of course, being only six years old, I moved to Mount Ayr where I went K-12. All of my teachers were really able to work with me.**

**Clarke: Did you attend classes with other...with the other students in the school, or were you segregated?**

**Hunt: I attended classes with all of the other students. The closest thing to segregation in this case that comes to my mind is when we would all get our homeroom teachers for the year and, of course, we were expected to be in class learning math, science, English with that teacher. So,**

**segregation to me there is not the way most people would think of it.**

**Clarke: Okay, okay. Anything else you can think of? What about...I know you went to college for a while.**

**Hunt: Yes, I did. I went to Southwestern Community College in Creston, Iowa and the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls.**

**10:00**

**Hunt: And, believe me I enjoyed just about all of it. I faced more blindness situations there by having more and more of my textbooks was...as many as I could get put on tape. I was also a first generation student so I would take some of the books and have somebody photocopy the pages for me which I did not realize was not the most effective thing to do. But, I was, in a way, a pioneer of what I was doing. I did not know and I could not think of anyone who had gone to college ahead of me with a disability. In fact, the only people I could think of who had gone to college were all adults. I just didn't know where to go from that point. But, I went through all of my classes and I would take my own notes and then I would...As college progressed as I got a little bit smarter about it, I began to take exams in a separate room and have them on...in large sheets of paper and allow for extra test taking time.**

**Clarke: Okay. And, what are you doing with yourself now?**

**Hunt: Right now I have been delivering newspapers for the Creston News Advertiser. A couple of years into the job or two or three I would say, not more than three, one person who also delivered the same newspaper said that they gave the job to me, and they said I could keep it as long as I could prove that I could handle it. For the most part I think this has worked because I have been doing this for five years.**

**Clarke: All right. Well, Steve, thank you for your interview.**

**Hunt: Yes. And, if I have managed to make anybody listening to this story laugh I am most eternally grateful. It was not my intent but I'm glad I was able to amuse you rather than bore you because I do not like to bore people with stories.**

**Clarke: I don't think your story was boring at all.**

**Hunt: Well, thank you. Happy listening.**

**13:07  
(End of Recording)**

**Deb Brix  
July 2, 2011**